

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-7 as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,237,120 to SHIMADA et al. in view of U.S. Patent 4,831,517 to CROUSE et al.

According to a feature of the present invention, discussed at, for example, page 73, lines 12-24 and Fig. 31 of Applicant's application, register 58 (i.e., the address-coincidence disabler) is controlled by flag data FD, as well as a hardware signal input, such as a reset signal. The state of register 58 after execution of the revisional program is controlled by each of the revisional programs by way of operating the flag data FD. The process jumps to a revisional program when the address of an address counter coincides with the comparison address data in order to carry out a revisional program, such as, for example, additional interruption routine K. The flag data FD is set to 1 at the end of the revisional program when returning to the address of the ROM, to prevent the generation of an endless loop.

Applicant submits that at least this feature is lacking from the applied art of record.

Applicant notes that the Examiner acknowledges that SHIMADA et al. only relates to conditions where a defective portion exists. Applicant submits that SHIMADA et al. further does not disclose (or suggest) adding a revisional program when return-address data coincides with comparison address data. Nor does SHIMADA et al. disclose Applicant's address-coincidence-disabler.

Further, Applicant submits that in CROUSE et al., "patch hook instructions" are incorporated into a program that was previously stored in a ROM. Return instructions

for each patch hook instruction is required, which uses additional memory. Further, while it is possible to eliminate a duplicated main part of a program from a revisional program, such is difficult in CROUSE et al. because it does not directly designate a part where the revision is required, and execute the revisional program.

By the current amendment, Applicant amends claim 1 to clarify that the address-coincidence-disabler is operated in response to a control flag that is set in the revisional program. Accordingly, Applicant submits that even if one were to combine the teachings of the applied references in the manner suggested by the Examiner, one would fail to arrive at the instant invention, in which, for example, an address-coincidence disabler is controlled by flag data FD. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention, as defined by the pending claims, is not obvious in view of the applied art of record, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection.

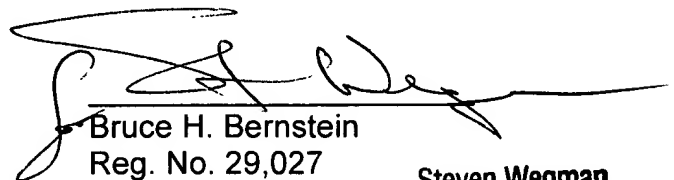
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroyuki TAKAHASHI


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438

February 25, 2005
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191